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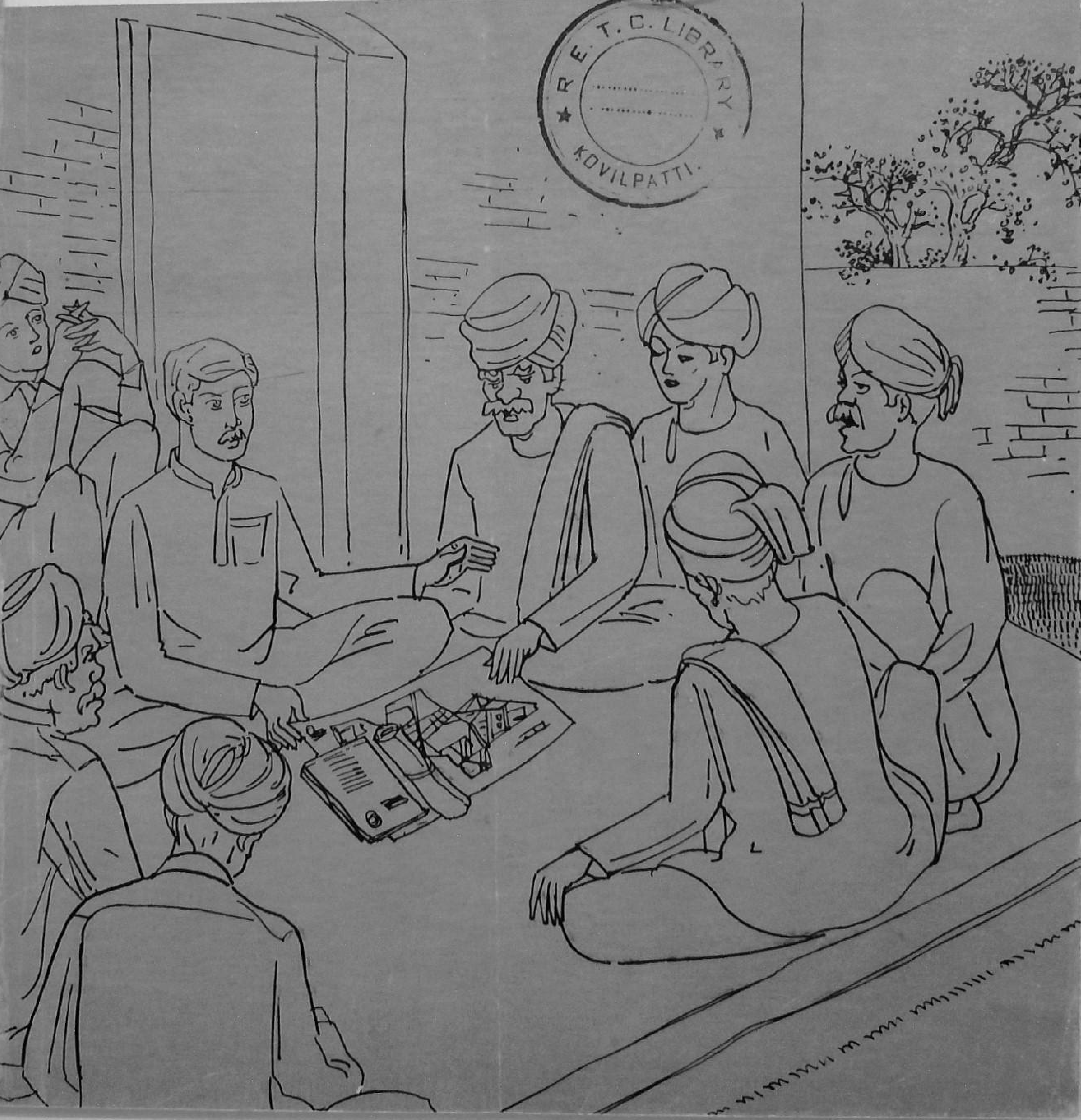
PANCHAYATI RAJ

JANUARY 1962

PT69



R.E.T.C. LIBRARY
KOVILPATTI.

PANCHAYATI RAJ

(Incorporating Gram Sevak)

ASVINA-1883

Vol. II — **JANUARY 1962** — No. 10

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL 10 FEB 1962 KOVILPATTI RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE

AN OPEN LETTER

R. E. T. C. LIBRARY KOVILPATTI.

Dear Comrade,

You have a vital role to play during the next two months. I send this open letter as a brief explanation of the task ahead.

The first task that faced the elected leaders in government after Independence was to transform the government apparatus which was forged by a foreign government for suppressing all urges for freedom and for exploiting the people. A stock had to be taken of the material and human resources in the country with a view to drawing up the Five Year Plans of development which can take the country from poverty to prosperity, from disease to health, from hunger to plenty. With two Five Year Plans completed, the nation is well set in motion for the next leap forward. The next stage should mean intensive effort for social security, justice and fair play in life both of the individual and the community. It should mean that the bounties of the nation as we develop should be equitably distributed between areas and regions in the country and between people. The wide disparity between the rich and the poor should gradually ease. The strong should help the weak to bring the latter to their level instead of exploiting them for their personal benefit. These are the crucial issues before us today.

The election every five years is a forum for the representatives to give an account on behalf of themselves and their parties and to receive a mandate afresh from the people. If a representative or a party has proved unworthy of the trust reposed by the people, the election is there to provide the remedy. The discharge of this basic assignment determines the character of the superstructure of democratic government envisaged by the Constitution. To do this effectively, people must be enlightened enough to understand the essential features of the Constitution; how different tiers of the government are to run at the Gram Sabha, Block Panchayat Samiti, Zila Parishad, State Legislature and in the Parliament. People must be organised enough to make themselves felt. They must be determined enough to do what they feel is right and not allow themselves to be misled by individuals or groups.

The coming two months will be a period of intense political activity because of the forthcoming general elections. It can also be the most fruitfull period for social education of people in democracy. You are a member of the major sector of India, namely the rural community. It will be up to you to imbibe and impart to people around, an understanding of the working of democracy. The Panches and the members of the managing committee of the co-operative can play their part in explaining Panchayati Raj, how it forges a common link from the Gram Sabha to the Lok Sabha.

Political parties and the representatives they set up to contest the forthcoming election for the State Legislature and the Parliament can be invited by the village to display their account of the past and the manifesto of the future as different vendors exhibit their products and services in the common market. The customers who are the adult citizens in the village should seek answers to all questions and problems that arise in their mind. All representatives and parties should be given equal opportunity for explaining and exhibiting themselves before the people. The citizens—men and women can thus view the different issues at stake in the country as presented to them from different angles. When they go to cast their vote in the ballot box on the day of election, they will then do so with eyes wide open.

This great land of India will survive and thrive provided her people can survive and thrive in freedom. Their will be people with all shades of thought, action and impulses. Election is an open forum provided in democracy for clearing the air of all contradictions and for forging a common direction to which the people can travel. For, once the eyes are clear and people can see what is good for them and what is not, they are bound to vote for what is right. They will not allow themselves to be misguided by anyone. People cannot be wrong. Their leaders may be. This is the core of democracy. Villages of India have gone through the election for Panchayati Raj, Sahakari Samaj and other institutions. Others from above helped the villages to work out the processes of democracy at the ground level. It is now for the village impartially and justly to assist in fulfilling the pre-requisites for getting candidates processed democratically for the legislature or the Parliament as the case may be. While doing so, the village will have strengthened the bond between people at the roots. For they will all have been seeking understanding of the forces at play today and those that should be generated for tomorrow. We talk of unity at the village. Nothing can forge unity amongst the village people more securely than this collective process of learning and understanding about the processes of democracy. Our democracy will be based on very brittle sand foundation unless the villages can act as the enlightened, organised and determined pillars of the State legislature and the national Parliament at the Centre.

The New Year is about to be ushered in. A new government will be formed soon after the general elections. The next five years will be critical. For it will determine if we should be climbing up or going down. What happens will largely depend on how you play your role during the next two months. I wish you God-speed. I send you cordial wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

S. K. Dey

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Village Industries and Panchayati Raj

Vishnu Dutt

VILLAGE INDUSTRIES have so far been the weakest link in the C.D. programme. Little wonder that in spite of some advance having been made in the agricultural sector, the economic condition of a large number of people in the rural areas has not shown appreciable improvement and the prospects of unemployment and under-employment continue threatening as ever. Unless the village and small industries come into their own, the all round economic development of the rural areas cannot be achieved. Here is a great challenge for the Panchayati Raj bodies as well as the Government.

LEGITIMATE SPHERE

The problem is no doubt stupendous but can be tackled effectively if a proper approach is adopted and a determined effort is made. The Panchayts should view the economic development of the villages based on industries as falling within their legitimate sphere of duty. For expanding their financial resources, removing unemployment and raising the standard of living of the landless and the weaker sections, there is no other alternative to the village and small industries.

MAIN HURDLE

The main hurdle is that the village industries in the present state of their technology cannot stand in competition with the large-scale industries. The village products are costly and inferior in quality as compared to the large-scale factory products and therefore they do not find a ready market. That in short is the story of their fast losing battle for survival.

It is on the correct approach to this vital problem of marketing that their future depends. Various suggestions have been put forward to improve the state of affairs. The proposal put forward by some that separate spheres of marketing and production should be demarcated for the two types of industry is not a very practical and lasting solution. It is like providing crutches to the lame. Besides, the creation of artificial barriers against the free play of economic forces may give rise to hosts of other problems the tackling of which is not an easy task. In fact it is not a wise policy to isolate the village industries and freeze them in the present state of their backwardness. They will have to fall in line with the advancing tide of science and technology if they are to survive.

INTEGRATED APPROACH

Thus the approach to the problem of large-scale *versus* small-scale industries should not be that of treating them as separate entities placed in water-tight compartments but that of an integrated whole, neither trying to crush the other. The first task before the Panchayati Raj bodies, therefore, should be to effect improvement in the equipment and technology of the various traditional village crafts and industries. Increasing utilisation of power generated from various sources like electricity, wind-mill, cow-dung gas plant and solar battery should be encouraged. More emphasis should be laid on rural electrification and the people should be persuaded to take to new and improved methods of industrial production.

The Government after a good deal of experimentation have veered round to the view that rural industries can flourish only when all possible facilities of supply, marketing and improved techniques are made available in a concentrated

manner to a few selected centres. It is this approach which governs the evolving of new schemes like Rural Industrial Estates, common facility centres and cluster type of training centres. In course of time these centres of activities will develop into flourishing agro-industrial townships. The Panchayati Raj bodies should keep abreast of the latest pattern of rural industrialisation and lend their weight to make the various schemes a success.

Prior to the undertaking of any village industries in the area, a proper survey of the local industrial resources and available skilled manpower should be made by the respective Panchayati Raj bodies at the village, block and zila levels. A proper survey will go a long way to help determine what types of village and small industries could be suitably undertaken at various places. Besides, the industries may be classified into different categories suitable for being taken up at either of the three-tiers *viz.* the village, block or district. Some of the industries particularly the traditional cottage industries like hand-spinning, hand-weaving, rice-husking etc., are suited for the village. Others like dairy-farming, tanning and utilisation of dead animals, cotton ginning, oil crushing etc., could be run at the block level. Still other industries like common facility workshops, sugar mills, cluster type training centres, Rural Industrial Estates, etc., may be taken up either at the block or district levels.

SWADESHI SPIRIT

It will take quite some time before the village industries are in gear with the latest technology. During the transitional stage, however, the traditional crafts will continue to play an important role in the economic sector of rural life because these provide consumer goods and employment to a large number of people. Arrangements will therefore have to be made in collaboration with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to keep alive cottage industries like hand-spinning, hand-weaving, telghani, rice-husking, etc. The best way in which the Panchayati Raj bodies can help boost these industries is by inspiring the 'Swadeshi' spirit amongst the people and to pursuade them to buy preferably goods produced in the villages.

OTHER PROBLEMS

Some of the other problems confronting the Panchayati Raj bodies in pushing the programmes of rural industrialisation are shortage of credit and lack of training facilities. It appears that of the Plan allocation for village and small industries, the rural areas are receiving much less than they deserve. The Ministry of Community Development has rightly drawn the attention of the States to spend at least half the allocation in the villages. At present there is a very meagre provision of only Rs. 30,000 per block for five years for giving credit to artisans for village industries. Efforts should be made to increase the credit assistance as much as possible. The Panchayati Raj bodies can also help by striving to find additional resources for credit facilities to artisans.

An effective way in which they can help is to enable the so-called 'non-credit-worthy' persons, to receive the Government loans. In fact, it is these persons,—the poorest sections, the 'have-nots' who need the loans most but they are denied the facility on account of security limitations. It is here that the Panchayats should display their community spirit and try to help their weaker members. As regards training facilities for village artisans, the Government policy has undergone a vital change. Experience has shown that small training centres with inadequate equipment and instructors of the right calibre do not fully serve the purpose for which they are meant. Consequently they are now being replaced by what are known as the 'cluster type' institutions which consist of a minimum of four trades and have a capacity of 64 trainees. The Panchayats should see that only the deserving candidates particularly the artisans or their children who are already employed in the traditional industries are selected for the training. The follow-up programme of these trained artisans had

(*Continued on Page* 13)

STEAMED BONE-MEAL

Sir,

THERE IS a cry everywhere that manures are not available for agricultural purposes to the extent required by farmers. This is particularly true of chemical manures like ammonium sulphate, etc. As compared to chemical fertilisers the steamed bone-meal is a better manure and is suitable for all types of soil. This has been testified by the I.C.A.R. as well. The Gandhiniketan Ashram, Kallupatti, in Madurai District, Madras State, has under its control five Carcass Recovery Centres and all the steamed bone-meal produced by them has been sold to agriculturists in Ramnad, Madurai and Thanjavur districts. In the last season, the above Centres were even unable to supply the bone-meal to agriculturists, as there was so much demand. It is suitable for crops like paddy, wheat and other cereals, sugar cane, chillies, vegetables and fruits. In Chinnamanur area in Madurai district, the coffee planters require steamed bone-meal in large quantities and they get their requirements from the Ashram's Carcass Recovery Centre at Chinnamanur. If the Government would ban the export of raw bones from India and would pass legislation to prevent the eating of flesh of dead animals, it would facilitate easy availability of raw bones and easy recovery of carcasses by Carcass Recovery Centres which can indeed produce large quantities of bone and meat meal, and thereby minimise the difficulties of the agriculturists in getting manure for agricultural purposes. I would also suggest that each Panchayat Union should establish one Carcass Recovery Centre under its control, arrange for getting raw bones and dead animals in its area, produce steamed bone-meal in large quantities and supply them to the farmers in its jurisdiction.

Dt. 11-11-61 Yours etc.

Seenu R. Ramasubbu
Kallupatti, Madurai Dt.

* * *

THE WRONG PICTURE

Sir,

The foundation-stone laying ceremony of a school building was held recently in a village over here. Frantic efforts were made to get some minister or a high official to perform the ceremony. But as ill-luck would have it, none was available for the important work. At last, the B.D.O. sahib was prevailed upon to officiate for the missing V.I.P. As usual on such occasions, the photographer was in attendance. The Block officials, including EOs, SEOs and even the accountant some of whom had perhaps visited the village for the first and the last time were asked to take special positions so that they could come in the picture. The Sarpanch was able to squeeze himself into a corner to be photographed. But nobody cared for the poor Gram Sevak who was standing aloof. This incident which is perhaps not new to this village and is repeated all over the country has set me to thinking. I wonder what a wrong impression such photographs when published or shown to others would give. No one outside the village will ever know the true facts of the case, that it was the Gram Sevak who had laboured hard day and night to persuade the people to collect money, got the blueprint prepared and at last arranged for the foundation laying ceremony including even the garlands which were placed round the necks of V.I.P.s. These days one hears a lot about the socialist

pattern, the dignity of labour and the importance of grass-root functionaries in the C.D. Programme as well as the Panchayati Raj. But do these slogans really convey any meaning ? Perhaps not until the real worker is given due public recognition. Of course, no one grudges the ministers and other high-ups performing such ceremonies. But they should be requested to do the onerous duty sparingly and only on important occasions at the State or the national levels. At or below the district level, it is the workers whether official or non-official who have really contributed towards the success of the project in hand, who deserve to be given the role of honour. This will not only save much valuable time of our ministers and V.I.P.s but also provide much needed encouragement to the field workers.

Dt. 5-11-61 Yours etc.
Nangal Raya, *Madan Gopal*
DELHI

* * *

HOW TO PREPARE CHEESE

Sir,

Reference article, "Cheese from Kalimpong" by Shri S. N. Bhattacharya, appearing in the September issue of Panchayati Raj, I would be grateful if you please intimate me the sources from where the chemical substance needed for making cheese can be obtained. It appears from this article that this is a very useful and profitable business. I shall be grateful if more light on this subject is thrown.

Dt. 27-9-61 Yours etc.
Subedar Amrik Singh
The Sikh Regiment,
Meerut Cantt.

The correspondent is advised to contact the Manager, Pedong .Cheese and Condensed Milk Centre, Kalimpong, Darjeeling, for further detailed information on the subject.—Ed.

* * *

ADOPTED FAMILY SCHEME

Sir,

The 'Adopted Village' scheme which was introduced in all the blocks of Orissa, sometimes ago under Social Education has been working very satisfactorily. According to the scheme the B.D.O., the Extension Officer and the V.L.W.s are required to adopt one village each. The S.E.O.s are required to adopt two villages each. The official adopting a village remains in general charge of the entire work in that village. He takes all possible measures for the all-round development and welfare of the people in the adopted village.

On similar lines, I suggest a modified scheme to be called the "adopted family scheme". Acording to this scheme, the B.D.O., Extension Officers and the V.L.W.s may adopt a family of a village and take steps to bring about all-round development of that family. This family will serve as a model to the whole village. The following possible lines of development are recommended under the scheme :

Social Education

1. The head of the family must be a member of the farmers' club.
2. The ladies of the family will be members of the village Mahila Mandal.
3. The youths of the family will be members of the village youth club.
4. The children will be members of the Children's Organisation.
5. The family members will read the library books and listen to the radio programmes regularly.
6. All the family members will be literate.
7. All the children of the family will go to the school.

Agriculture & Co-operation

1. The family will adopt the improved methods of agriculture.
2. It must have a kitchen garden.
3. Vegetables will be grown all the year round according to the requirements of the season. If possible, fruit plants particularly papaya and plantain will be grown.
4. The head of the family will be a member of the Grain-gola Co-operative Society or any other Co-operative Society.

(*Continued on page 16*)

HANDICRAFTS FOR EVERY VILLAGE

INDIAN HANDICRAFTS have a long tradition and provide a link between our past and present. Finds at the sites of excavation have enabled historians to fix the dates of civilisations by comparing the skill displayed by the artisans of various periods. In India, of course, are found evidences of a very high level of craftsmanship comparable to the best produced in any part of the world, from the very earliest times.

Indian handicrafts have always been valued for both their aesthetic and utilitarian values. They have formed the most valued export commodities at almost all periods of history and traders carried these products to all parts of the known world.

The Handicrafts industry is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. In spite of all handicaps, it is still the largest single employer of labour in the country. One million workers are today producing articles of exquisite beauty and everyday use for both the indigenous and foreign markets. From the humble pith to the sweet smelling sandalwood, from reeds to ivory and from gold and silver to the basest metal, nothing is too great a challenge for our marvellously skilled craftsmen, who with infinite patience and skill bring grace to the life of the humblest and the richest in the land by producing articles of considerable beauty for their use.

BEAUTY PLUS UTILITY

Handicrafts have always been an integral part of our daily life and craftsmen have occupied an honoured place in the village heirarchy. "Art for art's sake" is a concept alien to the Indian mind. Nothing is made purely for aesthetic satisfaction and beauty finds no worshippers for its own sake. It is subtly combined with utility to produce works of art even in the smallest water pot and the coarsest mat. The catholicity of taste and outlook of the Indian craftsman has enabled him to adapt himself to changing circumstances and has helped in the production of articles to suit conditions of any given period of history.

NEW TRENDS

Modern living conditions require suitable new shapes. The craftsman today is meeting the challenge by producing delicate blends of colour, pleasing changes in fabric textures, lightening of perfumes and impressionistic designs on ceramics and pottery. Today we find an amazing evolution taking place in front of our own eyes. Indian handicrafts, which have for centuries, satisfied the aesthetic and utilitarian needs of the people, are today undergoing subtle changes while clinging tenaciously to their basic shapes. A little streamlining here and there, a simplification of lines and colour have all brought our handicrafts in one leap from the age of the bullock cart to that of the jet plane.

Not everything today is what it was meant to be. Brass water pots have become much admired table lamps, the tray has become a table top, fabrics traditionally used for garments, are being used for curtains and table mats. Water buckets adorn many a living room as a container either for flowers or magazines.

Over one hundred crores of rupees worth of handicrafts are produced today in an ever-increasing range. Out of these goods worth about ten crores are exported, while the rest are absorbed in the home market, thus proving effectively and finally that handicrafts are not, as some critics imply, only for the foreigner looking for curiosities or the rich few. They are reaching every home providing an ever-increasing link between various parts of the country and promoting its unity.

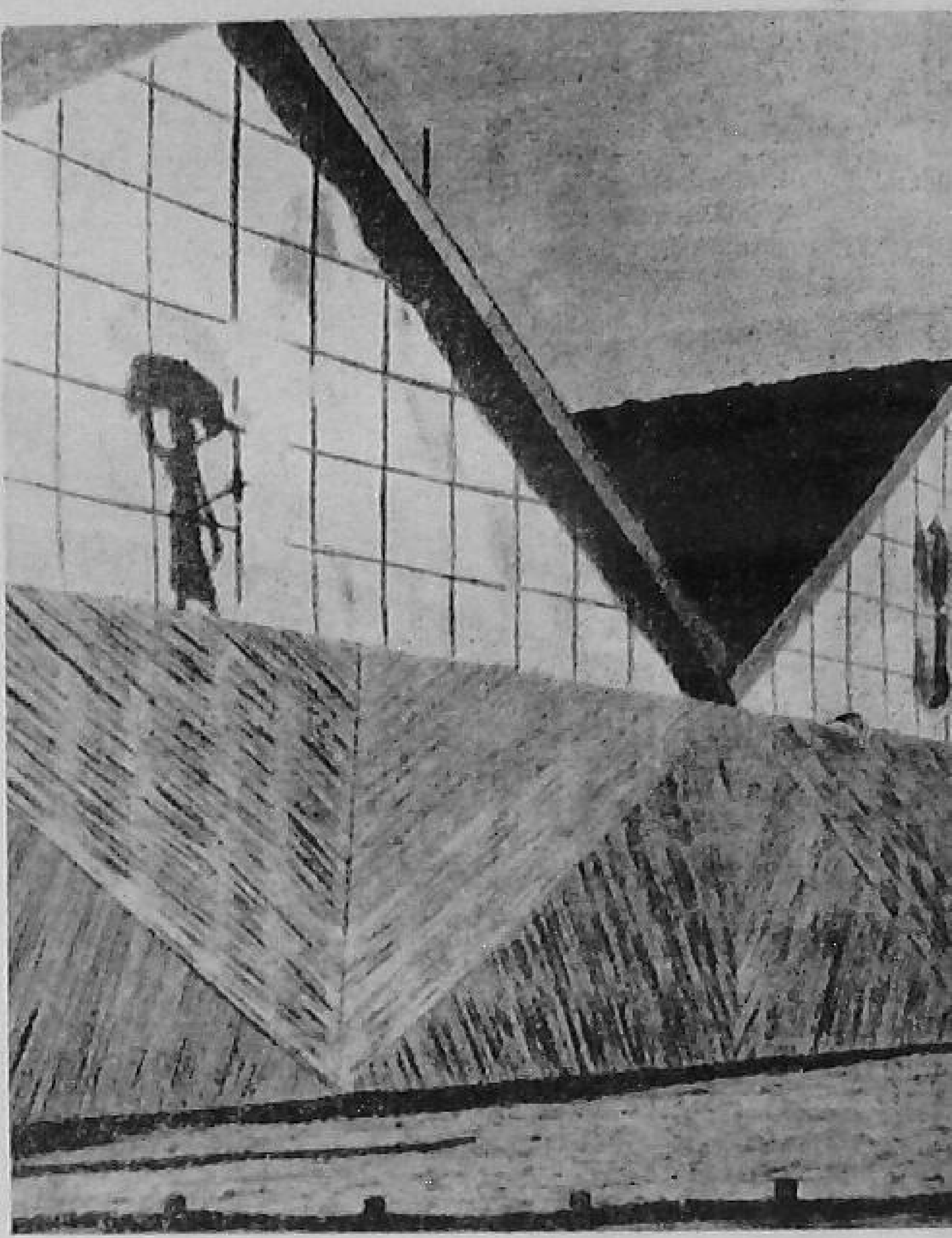
MADRAS STATE PANCHAYAT

(*By a Special Co*

THE TWO-DAY State Panchayat Conference held on 8th and 9th October last year in Madras was a unique one in more than one way. From the point of view of enormity of the task involved, it had hardly any parallel. Never before the State Government had been faced with the heavy and diversified responsibilities of making arrangements for the transportation, lodging and boarding for 15,000 delegates and officials who attended the conference.

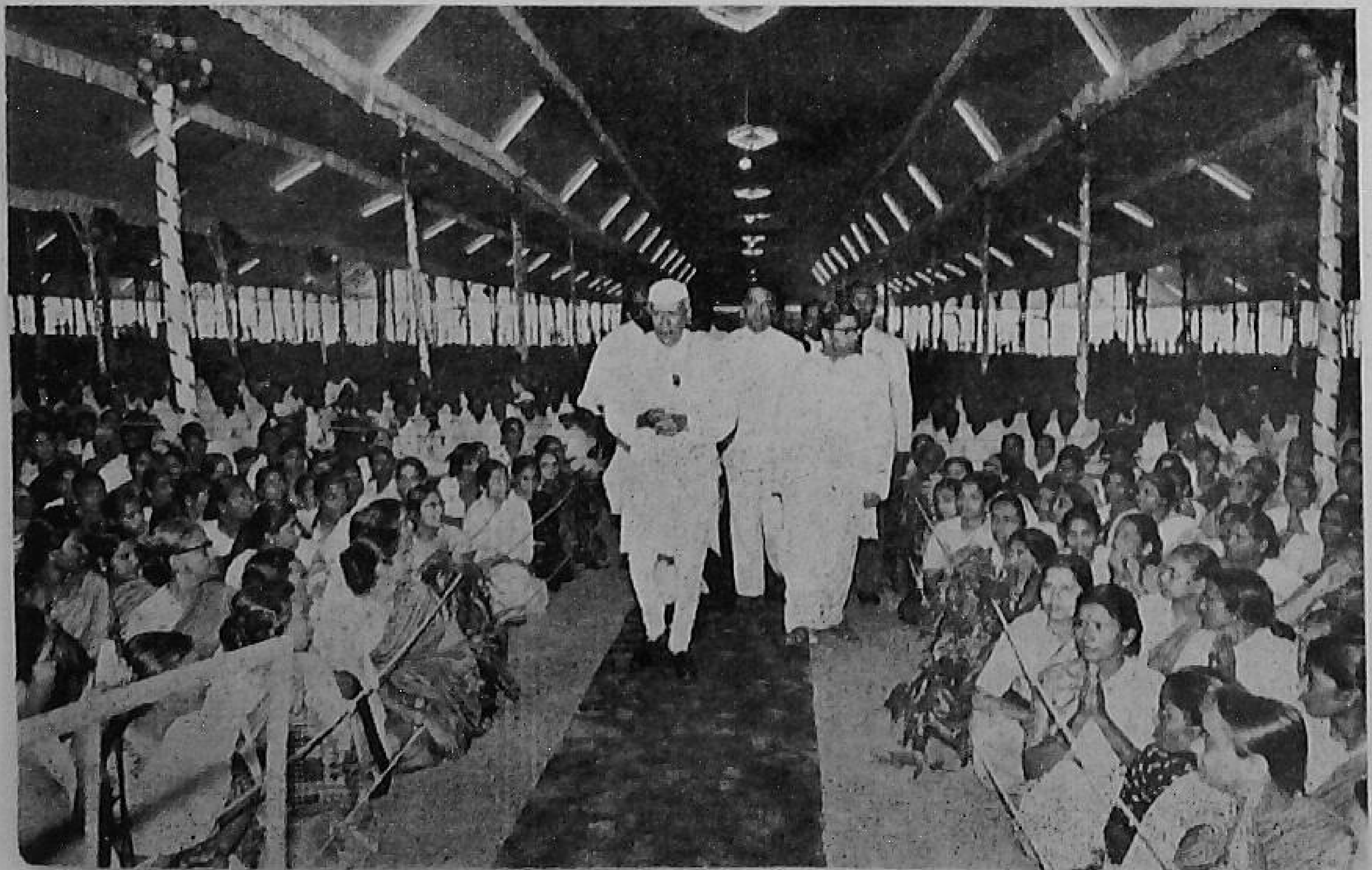
The passing of the Madras Panchayat Act, 1958 signified a reform of fundamental and far-reaching character both in regard to the organizational structure of local administration and in regard to the entrustment of responsibility for the planning and execution of development programmes. By 2nd October, '61, the entire State had been covered by 12,540 Panchayats and 373 Panchayat Union Councils. All the 11 district Boards of the State stood abolished on that date, and the stage was set for the ushering in of the Panchayati Raj. However, the emerging new village leadership, including the coopted Harijan and women members of the Panchayat Councils needed suitable orientation and guidance about the aims and objectives of the Panchayati Raj pattern and the role that they had to play in its realisation. The conference was an attempt to provide such an opportunity.

The Conference was meant for the officials concerned with the programme as well as for the non-official representatives. All Extension officers (Panchayats), Panchayat Union Commissioners, Personal Assistants to the Collectors incharge of planning and development besides 300 Gram Sevak trainees and Principals of the 7 Rural Extension Training Centres and the Chief Instructresses of the 3 Home Science Wings were called upon to attend the conference.



A view of the delegates' camp built at the Co
On the right is the entranc

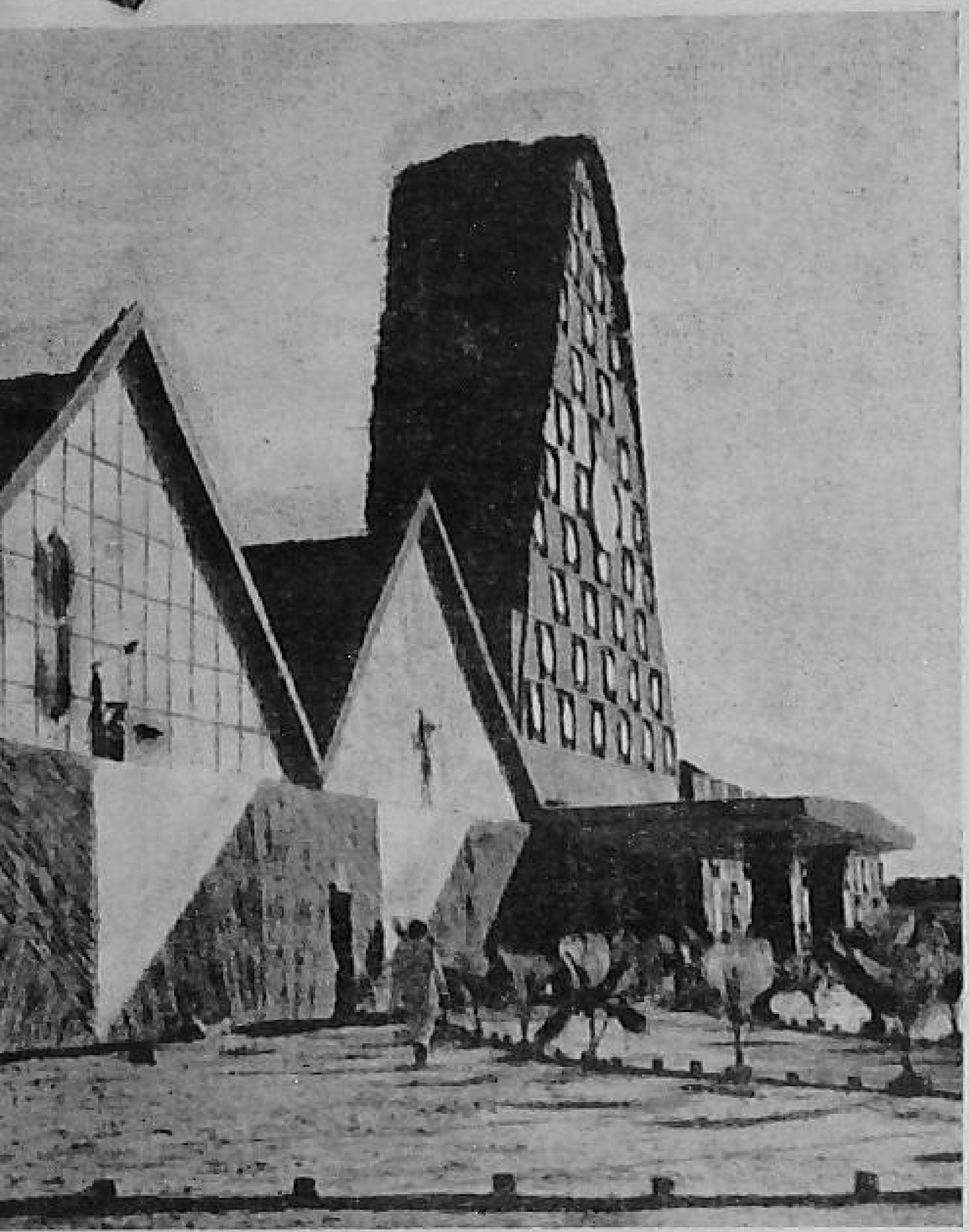
Prime Minister going round the conference pandal, greeting the vast multitude of Panchayat Presidents assembled. Photo shows a section of the women delegates.



The successful conduct of the conference involving as it did huge responsibility in making elaborate arrangements for the lodging and boarding of the delegates, ensuring water supply, sanitary facilities and many other problems including the setting up of a huge pandal to serve as the conference hall and the transportation of delegates, is a tribute to the skill and planning ability of the organisers.

AT CONFERENCE—*A Retrospect*

l Correspondent)



Conference site with locally available material. rance with 'Gopuram' motif.

The Island Grounds in Madras was aptly selected as the venue of the conference. A huge pandal measuring 330′ × 300′ was erected to serve as the conference hall. It was a model of simplicity and elegance having been constructed out of locally available material such as bamboos. and dry thatched leaves. The main entrance, having the *motif* of a rural dwelling, gave a very imposing outlook befitting the rural setting. The inside of the pandal had decorations of pure white cloth. Separate enclosures were provided for the delegates from each district. In addition, special enclosures were provided for the women delegates, M.Ps, M.L.As and for officers and other invitees.

The delegates from various districts were brought in buses engaged for the purpose by the respective collectors. These were also used for transporting the delegates from the conference hall to their places of residence.

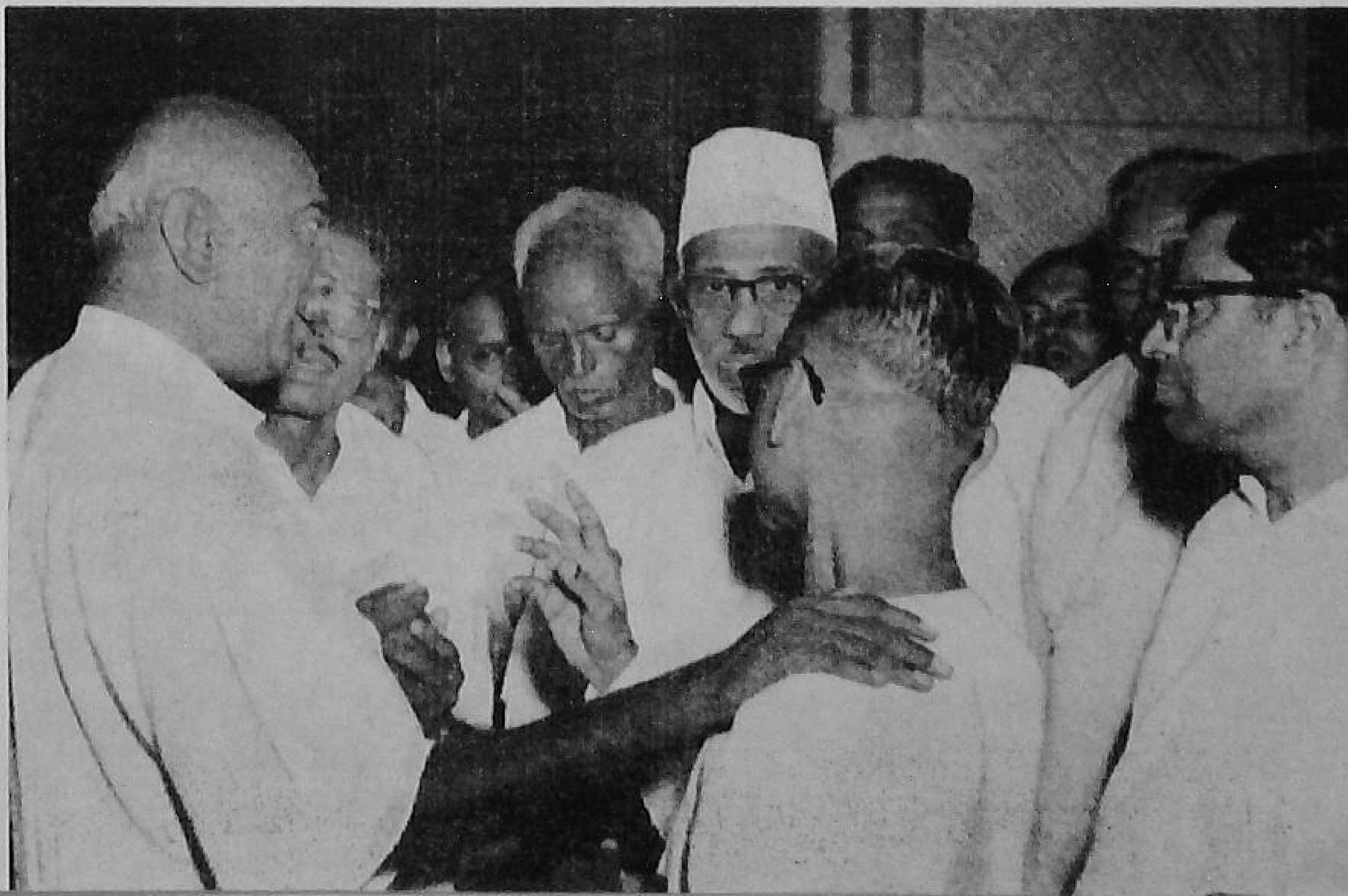
The difficult task of providing accommodation to such a large number of delegates was handled satisfactorily. The temporary sheds raised at the Island Grounds provided shelter to 6,000 delegates. In addition, the available accommodation in various college premises was also made use of.

Arrangements were made to provide common food in all the camps. It was ensured that the entire congregation of delegates could be served food in not more than two batches. To avoid wastage of time in going back to the respective camps and returning to the conference hall for the afternoon session, arrangements for lunch were made for the delegates on the conference site itself. Lunch packets consisting of 'sambar bath', 'curd bath' and chips were distributed to each delegate.

On the 8th October, the opening day of the conference, all the participating delegates had taken their seats in the pandal by 10 A.M. The conference presided over by the Governor of Madras was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. In the afternoon only the Subjects Committee consisting of the Chairmen of the Panchayat Union Councils met under the presidentship of the Chief Secretary to discuss the procedure to be adopted during the conference, to select speakers and to draft resolutions for the conference. All the women

(Continued on page 16)

State Chief Minister Sri K. Kamaraj having informal chat with some of the Panchayat Presidents at their camps.

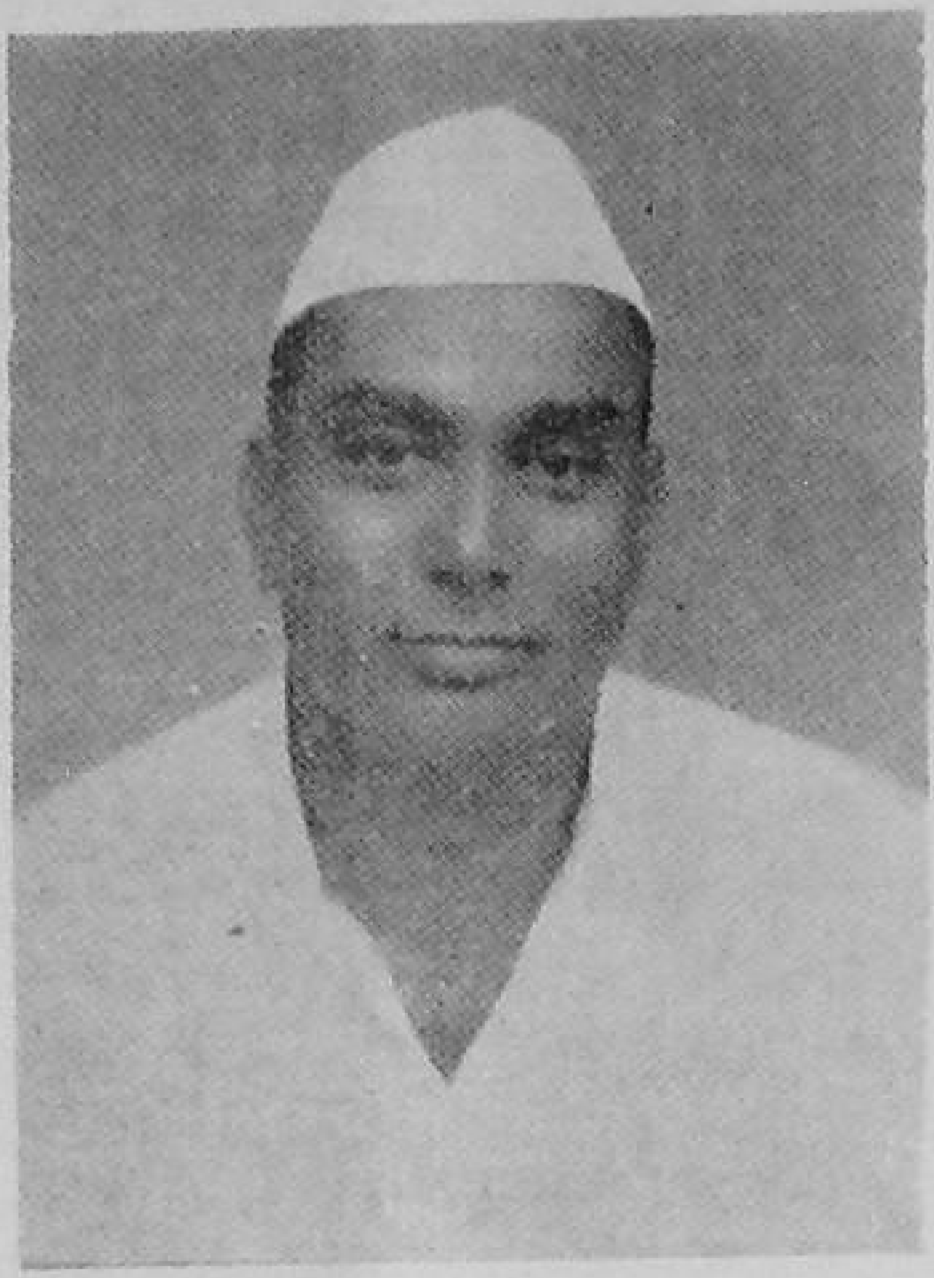


IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

EAGERNESS to learn new improved techniques and hard-working nature are qualities of character that lead to excellence in any sphere of activity. Shri Premchandra Vyankat Patil, a young farmer of 30 from Viravali in Yaval Taluka of Jalgaon district in Maharashtra brought to bear these qualities in an ample measure in his farming operations. A few years of intelligent and hard work led him from a petty farmer to the front rank of farmers. The Maharashtra Government honoured him by awarding the first prize of Rs. 2,500/- for the highest wheat yield in the Rabi Season last year. He obtained 52 maunds and 23 seers of wheat per acre, which is just more than two and a half times the average yield in Maharashtra.

Of course, he is only keeping up the tradition of his father who was awarded the title of 'Krishi Pandit' by the Government of India for his excellent efforts in achieving the highest yield of foodgrains in the country.

From his very childhood, Shri Premchandra was inclined towards farming. He works in the field with great zeal and enthusiasm. He has always kept his eyes and ears open to pick up improved farming techniques from every available source. He learnt a great deal from the World Agriculture Fair, held in New Delhi in 1960. He



PREMCHANDRA VYANKAT PATIL

also visited some farms in Patiala in the Punjab, and studied the farming practices obtaining there.

Inspired and greatly impressed by what he had seen in Patiala, shri Patil returned to his native place with a determination to do his best to get bumper yield.

Shri Patil used to take wheat along with jowar and cotton. For more than three years he tried different methods as well as seeds to get better yield of Rabi wheat but he was not satisfied with these experiments. Without losing hope he persisted in his efforts and contacted the Agriculture Department for necessary guidance. He was told that N-345 variety of wheat from Nasik district gave better yield. Consequently he procured N-345 variety seeds from Seed Production Centre at Malegaon through Ginning and Pressing Co-operative Society at Yaval on the auspicious day of Dhan Trayodashi and sowed it in a two-acre plot of his farm and entered the state competition for the best yield.

He took the following steps to get the record yield. Sowing was done in September after the field was manured with 10 cartloads of sulphate and nitrate. After 35 days he gave the first irrigation. The field received 100 lbs. of ammonium sulphate at the time of sowing and 60 lb. superphosphate and 20 lbs. of groundnut cake and 40 lbs. of Potash at the time of first watering. The second sowing was done in October when he used 60 lbs. of seeds of N-345 variety. Thereafter, he irrigated the field four times, which was followed by weeding operation. 20 lbs. of sulphate was then spread, to get the desired result. He took every precaution to protect the crops from pests and diseases.

The Patil family has succeeded in not only carving out for itself a place of honour and distinction in the society but also in improving their economic condition. Some 25 years back, they owned only 25 bighas of land. But by sheer industry and farsightedness they have added another 55 bighas to what they had previously.

FROM THE CENTRE

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION MAKES HEADWAY

ALL TOWNS and villages with a population of more than 5,000 will be electrified by the end of the Third Five Year Plan. In addition, half of the villages having a population ranging between 2,000 and 5,000, will be provided with electric power. In 1951, only 3,687 villages were electrified. In the First and Second Plan periods, the number increased to 23,000 which will further rise to 43,000 by 1965-66.

About 40 per cent of the larger villages, having a population of over 5,000, will have electricity for agricultural, domestic and industrial use.

Some special measures are being considered during the Third Plan for extending rural electrification. These include enlistment of public co-operation through the panchayat samitis and village panchayats for reducing expenditure on the transmission system.

The Central Water and Power Commission has also set up a special cell for initiating and assisting in field surveys and in installation of ten to 100 KW. hydro-plants in the isolated areas and hilly tracts. Another significant development is that the manufacture of small hydro-sets will be stepped up. In this way, agriculture is being gradually "industrialised", which should, in the years to come, change the face of rural India.

* * *

REPORT ON PANCHAYAT COURTS NEXT YEAR

THE THREE-MAN team appointed by the Centre to study panchayat courts has so far visited 10 States and is expected to submit its report early next year.

* * *

RESERVATION OF MEMBERSHIP IN CO-OPERATIVES

THE GOVERNMENT of India has directed the State Governments to reserve at least 10 per cent membership in co-operative societies for Scheduled Castes. According to the directive, no financial assistance should be given to societies in which such reservation was not made.

* * *

STATE PARTICIPATION IN CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATIVES

THE GOVERNMENT has accepted the recommendation of the Committee on consumers' co-operatives in regard to the Government's participation in the share capital of consumers' stores and apex wholesale stores.

It has also accepted with slight modifications the Committee's recommendation in regard to financial assistance for the construction of godowns and subsidy towards rented accommodation for primary stores.

* * *

C.D. FACULTY FOR DELHI 'VARSITY

A SEPARATE faculty chair for "Community Development and Panchayati Raj" may soon be established in the various Indian universities.

To give students practical training in co-operation, co-operative stores are to be established before the beginning of the next academic year in three universities, beginning with Delhi. The University Grants Commission is stated to have indicated that it would assist by providing some kind of working capital and a loan.

* * *

'AVARD' STUDY TEAM'S REPORT

THE REPORT of the AVARD's Study Team on Panchayati Raj in Andhra Pradesh has been received. The Team has recommended that M.Ps, M.L.As and M.L.Cs should not have voting right in the Panchayati Raj institutions, that the district level officers

(Continued on page 15)

OLD ORDER CHANGETH YIELDING PLACE TO NEW

IT HAS OFTEN been remarked (and not without justification) that the success of Panchayati Raj depends mainly on the character and ability of the Panches. It is a hopeful sign to observe that the recent Panchayati Raj elections in the country have on the whole thrown up a new leadership which is inspired by a sense of high purpose and dedication to the cause of service. The so-called traditional leaders who so far used to assert their superiority on the basis of caste and tradition have been relegated to a secondary position. This is amply borne out by what happened in Bahupur, a small village of Jullunder District in the Punjab.

Dasaundha Singh, a zamindar had been the Sarpanch of the village panchayat. He belonged to the old type of orthodox leadership. He had practically no new ideas or schemes for the welfare and development of the village. It is no wonder that during his long tenure as Sarpanch, he did precious little for the uplift of the village and its inhabitants. The result was that the people were not satisfied with him and decided not to elect him again as a Sarpanch. Panchayati Raj elections in the States were in the offing. A remarkable thing then happened. The villagers set up a young lady Bibi Resham Kaur to oppose

RESHAM KAUR

the sitting Sarpanch. The lady was none else than the Sarpanch's daughter-in-law. People's will won the day. In the battle of ballots, Resham Kaur triumphed over the father-in-law. It will, perhaps cause surprise to many how a lady and above all one's own daughter-in-law scored victory. But this will be easily understood when it is kept in mind that Resham Kaur belongs to that emerging new leadership which is conscious of its obligations to the community and knows what part it has to play in building it up. Though prior to her election as a Sarpanch, her main field of activity had been the home, looking after the essential needs and comforts of her family members, she took an enlightened interest in the welfare of her people, particularly the education of the children.

Her election as a Sarpanch threw open vast opportunities of service to the village for which she had an ardent longing. But the path of selfless service even like that of pure love never runs smooth. No sooner did she embark upon her new career than she was confronted with overwhelming opposition which came exclusively from one quarter, that is her own father-in-law. Dasaundha Singh, the deposed Sarpanch could not forget his defeat and humiliation at the hands of her own daughter-in-law and decided to avenge it. He disinherited his son Bakshish Singh, husband of Resham Kaur, from his landed property. Bakshish Singh who is employed as a sub-inspector in the Co-operative department was also forced to quit the house which though built out of his own savings, had been located on the plot of land belonging to his father. But all these severities could not subdue Resham Kaur who, on the other hand, was determined to undergo all trials and tribulations for the sake of her ideals. With redoubled zeal and vigour she pursued various schemes for the development of the village. Under her inspiring leadership, hundreds of villagers did 'Shramdan' on the construction of a

3-mile long Kacha road from Bahupur to Jalowal, thereby linking the village to the Jullunder-Pathankot metalled road. The village primary school received her special attention and she looked after the comforts of the children and the teachers. She also heard cases of dispute between various parties in the village and tried to settle them amicably. She brought to bear an extraordinary high sense of justice and fairplay while conducting the cases. That is why 27 out of 28 cases which she has dealt with so far have been compromised and it was only in one case that the guilty person was fined Rs. 25. People in and outside the village talked of her sense of justice and intelligence. This enraged the jealous father-in-law all the more. The matters came to a crisis when the lady teacher of the Primary School came and complained to her about the insulting behaviour of Dasaundha Singh. Immediately, she rushed to the school to find out the facts for herself. Dasaundha Singh was also there. After an on-the-spot inquiry, Resham Kaur was convinced that her father-in-law had been at fault and so she courageously asked him to apologise for the insult to the lady teacher. But the hot-headed father-in-law instead of feeling sorry for his misbehaviour, was cut to the quick and slapped the lady teacher in the presence of everyone. It was too much for Resham Kaur to tolerate. The 'Panch Parmeshwar' in her asserted itself and forgetting that the culprit was no other than her own father-in-law, she proceeded to take legal action against him. She took the lady teacher with her and lodged a report with the nearest police station about Dasaundha Singh's offence. The matter went to the court. The offender was found guilty and sentenced. During the proceedings of the case all sorts of pressures were brought to bear on her. But defying all threats and spurning overtures, she stood firm like a rock of justice, keeping her duty above every other consideration.

The father-in-law, finding no other way out to wreak vengeance on Resham Kaur, collected a few men and went to the Deputy Commissioner to prove his innocence and to seek his interference in the matter. While he was busy in these manoeuvres against Resham Kaur, the news trickled into the ears of the Chief Minister of the State. He suddenly came to the village one day to congratulate her for the sense of justice and the courageous stand that she had taken. As a token of his appreciation, he sanctioned a reward of Rs. 5,000 to her and also allotted her a route permit for Jammu & Kashmir to enable her to make a decent living.

VILLAGE INDUSTRIES AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

(*Continued from page 4*)

been a very weak point till now. In fact, some of the trained artisans never took to the industry for which they had received the training and this involved wastage of money and efforts. Now that the Panchayati Raj bodies have come into being at various levels, they must ensure that the boys trained at the institutions are well settled in the respective trades whether on co-operative lines or otherwise. Case-histories of all trained artisans should be maintained. The peripatetic training parties have done a good job to help improve the traditional techniques employed by artisans who found it difficult to attend the training institutions and got the training at their doorsteps. The Panchayati Raj bodies should plan the visits of these parties in a manner that the needy artisans derive full benefit.

CO-OPERATIVES

The Panchayati Raj bodies will find in co-operatives the best medium for promoting the village industries. Almost all the problems referred to above will lend themselves to easy solution if the co-co-operative method is resorted to. The difficulties of marketing, supply of raw material, machinery and credit even to the non-credit-worthy persons can be met with if co-operatives are organised for the purpose.

Around the States

ANDHRA PRADESH

Ministers Adopt Villages

A NOVEL PLAN for the development of villages in Andhra Pradesh has taken effect from November 1, when the second anniversary of the introduction of panchayati raj in the State was celebrated. Under the scheme each Minister is entrusted with the task of developing a village of his choice in any district of the State into a model village. The Minister is expected to give personal attention to this adopted village. If the scheme works well, it will be extended later.

* * *

Village Panchayats to Undertake Works of Public Benefit

IN CONNECTION with the second anniversary of Panchayati Raj in Andhra Pradesh, each village panchayat has been asked to take up at least one work of common benefit, such as, drinking water wells, minor irrigation works, roads, Panchayat-ghars etc. The work has to be completed, as far as possible, within 3 or 4 months. All the Panchayat Samitis have also been asked to bring out a summary giving a detailed account of their activities during the period.

* * * *

Prize Scheme for Panchayats

THE GOVERNMENT of Andhra Pradesh have decided to introduce a scheme for awarding prizes among Panchayats to provide an incentive and competitive spirit in the implementation of development programmes in villages. In 1961-62 the State Government propose to award prizes in the shape of monetary grants to the best Panchayat at the Block, District and State levels. The best Panchayat in each Block would receive Rs. 1,000, the best Panchayat in the District, Rs. 5,000 and the best Panchayat in the State, Rs. 15,000, as prize. The selection will be done by separate committees and the performance of the Panchayats will be decided on the criteria indicated by Government such as collection and levy of taxes; additional resources tapped; contributions given for development works; additional agricultural production; sanitation and health programmes and specific programmes for the Weaker Sections of the community. The Block level committee will have decided the best Panchayat at Samiti level before 31-12-1961; District Committee, will decide before 31-1-1962; and the State Committee before 28-2-1962.

* * * *

Panchayati Raj Commissioner Appointed

ANDHRA PRADESH Government have appointed a Commissioner of Panchayati Raj assisted by a Joint Commissioner and three Deputy Commissioners to carry out the executive functions of the Planning and Local Administration Department and the supervisory work relating to Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads. The Commissioner will also be a member of the Board of Revenue though he will refer all matters relating to Panchayati Raj direct to Government.

* * * *

GUJARAT

Gujarat Panchayats Bill

THE GOVERNMENT of Gujarat have framed the "Gujarat Panchayat Bill, 1961" which will be introduced in the State Legislature during the ensuing Session.

* * * *

MADRAS

State Covered by Panchayat Unions

WITH THE launching of 169 more Panchayat Unions on the 2nd of October, 1961 the entire territory of the

Madras State with the exception of Municipalities and Townships has been covered by Panchayat Unions.

* * *

MYSORE

Instructions for Panchayati Raj Bodies

As a result of expansion of the Community Development Programme, social welfare, agricultural production programmes and the establishment of Panchayati Raj institutions, two additional posts of Assistant Development Commissioners have been created in Mysore State to assist the Development Commissioner. The State Government have also issued instructions regarding the form in which the Annual Administration Report is to be placed before the Taluka Board by its President. Detailed instructions have also been issued for the preparation of agenda for meetings of Panchayats, Taluka Boards and District Development Councils.

Panchayats to Encourage Khadi and Village Industries

The Mysore State Government has issued an order according sanction to the village panchayats for taking up schemes for the promotion of khadi and village industries as a part of the developmental activities.

* * *

Expenditure on Wasteful Functions Curtailed

The Mysore Government have issued instructions that no expenditure should be incurred on such wasteful functions as laying foundation-stones of buildings etc.

* * *

WEST BENGAL

Panchayati Raj

In West Bengal, self-governing village institutions, called union boards, have been in existence ever since the enactment in 1919 of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act. These union boards are now being replaced, according to a phased programme, by gram and anchal panchayats under the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1957. Altogether 8,500 gram panchayats and 960 anchal panchayats have already been set up in 106 development blocks, out of 193 blocks already established, that is, covering about 40 per cent of the area of the State. According to this programme, the entire State will be covered by panchayats by the end of 1963-64. A large majority of the panchayats so far established are working satisfactorily. The collections made by the anchal panchayats from local taxes vary from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 40,000 per year. The Panchayats have in most cases doubled the taxes imposed by the former union boards and their present rate of collection shows that when the entire State is covered they will be able to raise more than Rs. one crore per annum by local taxes for expenditure on rural uplift. To augment their resources, the State Government will make an annual grant to each anchal panchayat. The total amount on this account for the entire State will also amount to about Rs. 1 crore.

Panchayati Raj in the State visualizes a three-tier system of panchayats—at the village level, gram panchayats; at the block development level, panchayat samiti and at the district level, zila parishads. At the village level there are already two-tiers of panchayats, that is, the gram panchayats and the anchal panchayats. For historical and administrative reasons, the fourth-tier of anchal panchayats, and different from other States, had to be established to replace the union boards already in existence.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Meetings of Gram Sabha

Under the Himachal Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, every Gram Sabha is a body corporate and two meetings of the Gram Sabha are held compulsorily in a year. In one meeting the budget is discussed and approved and in the second, the achievements of the previous year and programme for the next year is formulated. In addition, these Gram Sabhas can call emergent meetings. The two above said meetings are regularly held in all the Gram Sabhas of the Pradesh.

* * *

FROM THE CENTRE

(*Continued from page 11*)

should be subordinate to the Zila Parishad and the Collector should be its secretary and that a Panchayati Raj Commission should be established for holding elections, arranging routine inspections and for undertaking training programmes etc.

* * *

LETTERS

(*Continued from page 6*)

5. The family must have compost pits according to the requirements of the fields.

Public Health

1. The family will use pure drinking water and use a soakage pit.
2. All the family members must be vaccinated and inoculated.
3. The family members will use either trench or borehole latrine.
4. The house and the surroundings will be kept neat and clean.

Veterinary and Animal Husbandry

1. The family will grow fodder grass.
2. Suitable measures against rinderpest will be taken in time.
3. The cattle shed will be a model one.
4. The family will take up Poultry farming.

Industry

1. The family will take up one cottage industry as a subsidiary occupation.

General

1. The family will use smokeless chullah and dust bin.
2. The house will be beautified and improved with fireproof roofing and properly ventilated.
3. Every thing in the house will be neatly kept and arranged in a proper manner.
4. Care will be taken to keep the beddings and clothes neat and clean.
5. Houseflies, bugs, mosquitos, rats, lice, etc., will be controlled.
6. The family will take balanced and nutritive diet available locally.

I shall be obliged if the readers of the Panchayati Raj favour me with their views on the proposed scheme.

Dt. 1-10-61 Yours etc.
Raruan Block *B. K. Bhuyan*,
S.E.O.
District Mayur Bhanj,
ORISSA.

We invite our readers to send us their comments on the scheme.—Ed.

* * *

MADRAS STATE PANCHAYAT CONFERENCE

(*Continued from page 9*)

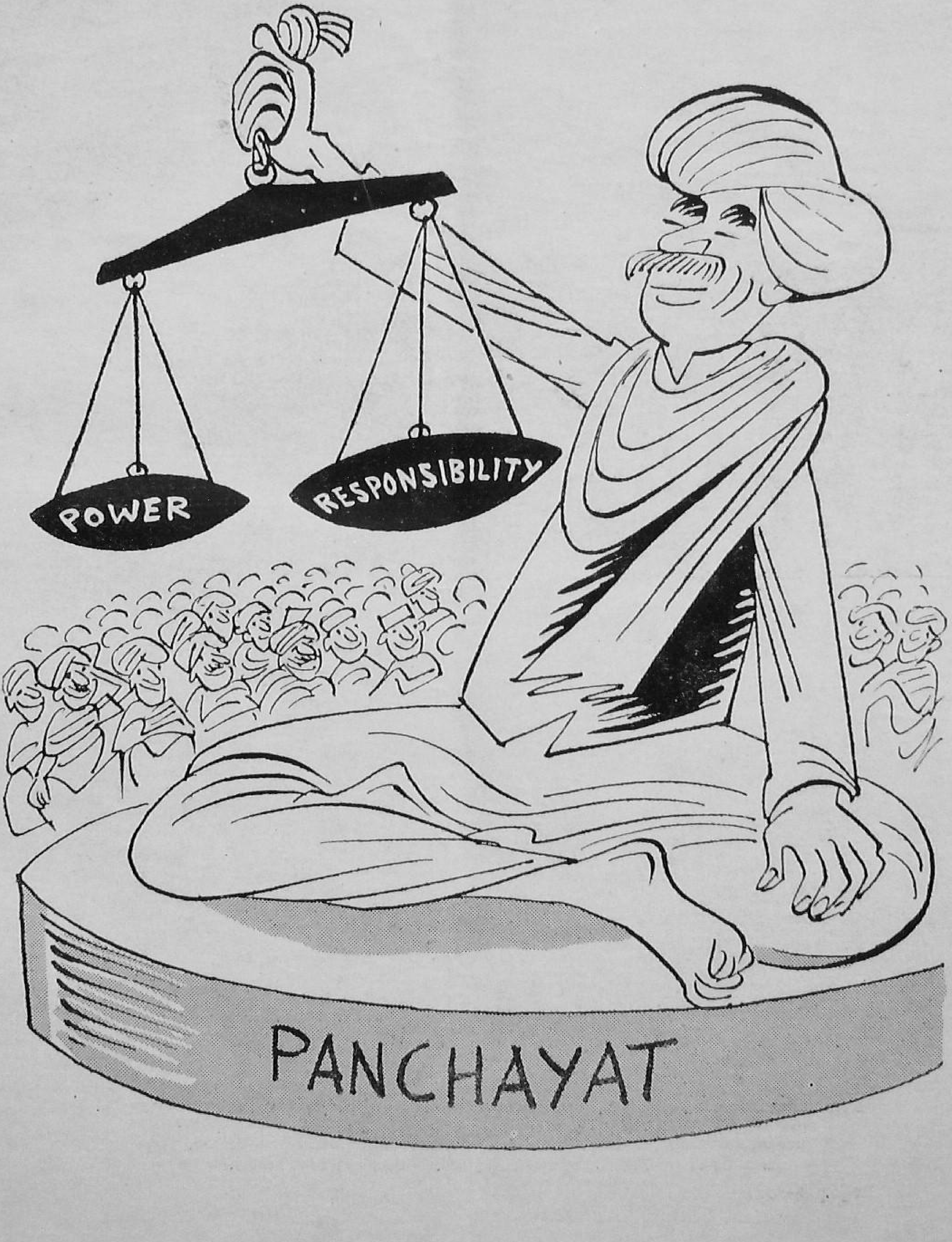
delegates attended separately the State Conference of Women's Welfare inaugurated by the Prime Minister at the Gandhi Mandalpam. On the following day too, the women delegates held a separate session devoted exclusively to their problems.

After several speakers had participated in the discussions, the Conference adopted three resolutions unanimously. The first Resolution on the Third Five Year Plan urged every Panchayat in the State to disseminate information about the Plan generally among all the families of the village and to persuade them to accept specific tasks in fulfilment of the Plan. It also asked them to raise the necessary resources in the village as required by the Plan and to foster village unity through the fulfilment of the constructive purposes of the Plan.

In another Resolution on Panchayats and Family Limitations, the Panchayat Conference recommended that every Panchayat in the State should carry out a monthly review of births and deaths in the village and thereby ensure the availability of correct and complete information about the growth of population in the village. It also sought to persuade all the families in the village under the charge of the Panchayat to receive instructions, in methods of family limitation provided by the Panchayat Union and, in particular, to ensure that every mother to whom a child birth occurs received instructions in family limitation within a period of three months before or after childbirth.

The third resolution on Panchayats and Agricultural Production called upon every Panchayat in the State to recognise that its most important duty was to ensure efficient use of land, water and other agricultural production facilities, and to frame a Village Production Plan accordingly.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Front view of the Conference Pandal where the State Panchayat Conference was held recently in Madras. The decorations were of local material,—elegant yet very simple in design.

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